

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2004, Applicants have amended claims 19, 21-23, 25-31, and 33-44. Claims 16-23, 25-31, and 33-44 are presented for examination. Claims 16-20 are allowed.

Claim 19 has been amended to correct a typo noted by the Examiner. Claims 21-23, 25-31 and 33-44 have been amended to reflect that they cover a food casing with an internal surface coating of an aqueous emulsion, rather than an emulsion by itself.

Claims 21-23, 25-31, and 33-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,898,348 to Chiu *et al.* ("Chiu"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,966,632 to Colliopoulos *et al.* ("Colliopoulos"). All of the pending claims, as amended, recite a food casing with an internal surface coating of an aqueous emulsion comprising a polyglyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of triglycyltetraoleate and triglycylmonooleate. As the Examiner acknowledges, nowhere does Chiu teach or suggest an aqueous emulsion including either a triglycyltetraoleate or triglycylmonooleate. Colliopoulos does not cure the deficiency of Chiu by teaching or suggesting a triglycyltetraoleate or triglycylmonooleate as recited in the pending claims. Colliopoulos does not relate to food casing products at all, but rather relates to a vegetable oil emulsion, suggesting that the emulsion can be used in the food industry, for example in the baking industry as shortening for breads and pastries or for the manufacture of mayonnaise. Accordingly, the combination of Chiu with Colliopoulos does not provide the teaching or suggestion of a food casing with an internal surface coating of an aqueous emulsion comprising a polyglyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of triglycyltetraoleate and triglycylmonooleate as recited in the pending claims. Without such a teaching or suggestion, neither combination renders the claims *prima facie* obvious. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Enclosed is a check for the petition for extension of time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket number 15836-037001.

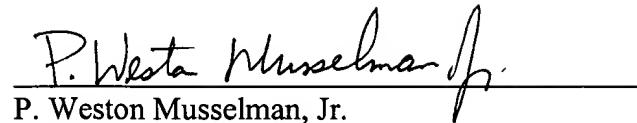
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Respectfully submitted,

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